

October 14, 2011

Weekly Views

The Indiana Department of Correction's (IDOC) Correctional Training Institute is ramping up for the dedication of the IDOC Museum and Wing. Correctional Training Institute staff, Darren Coy and Matt Andrick, are currently preparing historic items for Items have been donated by IDOC facilities and staff state-wide. There is ample room to accommodate more IDOC history. Hurry, donate, and be a part of IDOC history, memories and nostalgia! Please contact Matt Andrick to donate your items at 765-521-0230 ext. 5004, or via MAndrick@idoc.in.gov.

Officer Chad Evans, from the Putnamville Correctional Facility saw an opportunity to help others and acted on it. After watching a news segment on TV, Evans reported the Council on Domestic Violence's (CODA) need for cell phones to his supervisor. As a result, 100 confiscated cell phones were donated to CODA for victims of domestic violence. For each donated phone CODA will receive a brand new phone with GPS coordinates and 3000 free minutes.

On September 26th, the Department hosted the 2nd Annual IDOC Commissioner's Golf Open at The Fort Golf Course, located on the grounds of Ft. Harrison State Park. Thirty-six teams comprised of IDOC employees, sponsors, and other participants competed in the golf tournament. Over \$3500 was raised to benefit the Correctional Professionals Assistance Fund of Indiana.

During the 2011 Indiana Criminal Justice Association's Fall Conference, in Merrillville, IN, IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon presented staff with the Annual Commissioner's Awards. Among this year's recipients were Mark Sevier -Superintendent of the Year, Ernest Huff-Distinguished Service Award, Klorissa Moody- Parole Agent of the Year, Tanya Zimmerman- Industrial Professional of the Year, Terry Harman-Chaplain of the Year, Cindy Brown-Physical Plant Staff of the Year, Karl Pruett-Corrections Supervisor of the Year, Terry Tackett-Human Resources Staff of the Year, Alexis Dean Evens- Re-entry Staff of the Year, Jason Miller-Correctional Professional of the Year, Steven Scholz-Rising Star, and Jennifer Logan-Administrative Support Staff of the Year.

During the 2011 IDOC Blood Drive Challenge, over 650 units were donated by staff who rolled up their sleeves to give the gift of life. 22 facilities across the state hosted blood drives throughout the months of July and August in partnership with the American Red Cross and the Indiana Blood Center. All of the facilities that participated did a terrific job thanks to their wonderful blood drive coordinators who worked hard to promote their blood drives and encourage staff along the way. Taking first place in the small facility category for the third year in a row was Edinburgh Correctional Facility with 28% of staff donating, totaling 18 units! The first winner for the new medium facility category was the Correctional Industrial Facility with 10% of staff donating, collecting 38 units! Wabash Valley Correctional Facility took home first place in the large facility category with 15% of staff donating, collecting a whopping 94 units!

The Rockville Correctional Facility's Recreation Department Supervisor Joe Anderson has facilitated a "Chemo Cap" project with the facility's Teddy Bear Club, an offender group that makes crocheted teddy bears and other items for donation to various philanthropic organizations. The offenders assigned to the Teddy Bear Club have created a crocheted cap fashioned from pink yarn to donate to the Wabash Valley Race for the Cure. So far 24 caps have been donated with more to come.

Pendleton Juvenile Correctional Facility now has an obstacle course on grounds. Future Solider Program Instructor Nakuma Stone and Maintenance Staffer Gary King have been working tirelessly on this project. The course will include a balance beam, climbing wall, and other obstacles. The course will primarily be used by students in the Future Solider Program. Staff will also be able to use the course for teambuilding activities.

Ms. Stephanie Riley, a criminal justice student from IVY Tech Community College in Columbus, IN, visited the Pendleton Correctional Facility (PCF) to interview PCF Lieutenant Chad Winfrey in connection with a research paper she is completing. Lieutenant Winfrey provided her with a tour of the facility following the interview.

The Westville Correctional Facility (WCC) was well represented at the ICJA Conference Awards Ceremony. Three employees from WCC received honors of recognition from ICJA including: Assistant Superintendent of Operations Michael T. Scott was presented with the Distinguished Service Award, Human Resource Specialist Dixie Phelan received Support Services Staff of the Year, and Correctional Sergeant Michael Wheele received Correctional Officer of the Year. ICJA's Volunteer of the Year award also went to a WCC Volunteer, Chaplain Clarence O'Connor.

Putnamville Correctional Facility Security Threat Group Coordinators, J.R. Smith and Darrin Chaney attended a conference hosted by the Indiana Intelligence Fusion Center's (IIFC) Gang Intelligence Sharing Project, in Indianapolis, IN. During the conference, attendees received extensive training from FBI agents on the use of correctional intelligence, proactive policing, criminal gang statutes, growing security threat groups and how the FBI's Cryptanalysis and Racketeering Unit has helped law enforcement investigations and prosecutions.